



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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SECURITIES DIVISION NAMES WINNERS IN ESSAY CONTEST

Nashville, TN.- Each year the State of Tennessee Securities Division's holds an Essay Contest for high school seniors to promote financial literacy among students. This year, five high school seniors from across the state were awarded U.S. Savings Bonds in amounts of \$1000 or \$1500.

"We are pleased when we can encourage young people to think about their financial future and responsible investing," said Leslie Newman, Commissioner for the State of Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

The contest focuses the students' attention on their financial present, as well as their financial future. The student essays answered the hypothetical question, "What if I was given \$5,000 to invest as I see fit?" Students were required to describe their research process and explain their investment choice.

"We were quite impressed with the thoughtfulness and level of research of the essays entered. It is encouraging to see young people pondering financial decisions while still in high school. We hope to see the number of essay entries increase each year," said Daphne Smith, the Assistant Commissioner for the State of Tennessee Securities Division.

Essay winners for 2007 are:

Emily McKeehan, Fulton High School, Knoxville, Tennessee - \$1,500.00

Carmen Matheny, Walker Valley High School, Cleveland, Tennessee - \$1,000.00

Nick Phifer, Liberty Technology Magnet High School, Jackson, Tennessee - \$1,500.00

Megan Holt, Liberty Technology Magnet High School, Jackson, Tennessee - \$1,000.00

Carson Prevatte, Smyrna High School, Smyrna, Tennessee - \$1,500.00

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Securities Division, enforces the Tennessee Securities Act of 1980 to maintain the integrity of the securities market and to protect investors. The Division also promotes investor education and the prevention of fraud in the securities industry. Funding for the savings bonds came from the proceeds of various securities settlements that have been earmarked for outreach and education.

For more information on the Securities Division, visit the web at www.state.tn.us/commerce/securities or call 615-741-2947 or toll free at 800-863-9117.

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